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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:GTWOHIE
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:GEORGE TWOHIE
---------- 028379
O 172218Z OCT 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE
CINCLANT IMMEDIATE
SECDEF IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228902

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT REYKJAVIK 1425 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NATO COPENHAGEN
OSLO STOCKHOLM

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1425

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO COMIDEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO
SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION AGREEMENT - POLITICAL INFIGHTING

REF: REYKJAVIK 1421

1. THE "TECHNICAL" DELAY RESULTS FROM FACT TAHT A POLITICAL MANEUVER ON PART OF GOI LEADERSHIP BACKFIRED AND THEY WERE OUTSMARTED. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL NOW GENERATE THE KIND OF PUBLICITY GOI LEADERS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO AVOID, THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT NO HARM WHATSOEVER TO THE INTEGRITY OF
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THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT.

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2. DISAGREEMENTS HAVE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE PRIMEMIN'S INDEPENDENCE PARTY AND THE FONMIN'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY OVER THE PRIMEMIN'S AND FONMIN'S JOINT DECISION NOT TO SEND DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO THE ALTHING FOR APPROVAL OR AT LEAST TO FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO SIGNATURE. THE BASIC FEAR OF THESE TWO MINISTERS IS THAT AN ALTHING DEBATE PRIOR TO SIGNATURE WILL EXACERBATE CLEAVAGES THAT ALREADY EXIST WITHIN THE TWO PARTIES AND BETWEEN THEIR TWO PARTIES WITH THE COMMUNISTS REAPING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PROPAGANDA BENEFITS. THESE TWO MINISTERS ALSO FEAR THAT THE EXTREMISTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES MIGHT TRY TO CHANGE THE AGREEMENT. IP EXTREMISTS ON THE RIGHT MIGHT TRY TO EMBARRASS PP ON THEIR TURNABOUT ON THE DEFENSE ISSUE FROM STANCE PP TOOK WHEN IT LEAD THE LEFTIST COALITION. THESE IP RIGHTISTS MIGHT ALSO TRY TO TOUGHEN PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEHENT BY REFUSING TO AGREE TO MILITARY REDUCTIONS AS GREAT AS 420 AND ALSO MIGHT TRY TO INSERT PROVISION THAT USG CANNOT MAKE SUBSEQUENT REDUCTIONS WITHOUT GOI APPROVAL. THE IP RIGHTISTS MIGHT ALSO TRY TO ENTANGLE THIS DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE BASE TELEVISION ISSUE WHICH IS CURRENTLY PITTING IP MEMBERS AGAINST EACH OTHER N A SO-CALLED "FREE CULTURE" ISSUE WHICH BORDERS ON THE RIDICULOUS. (THERE IS A PETITION BEING CIRCULATED TO REQUEST USG TO REIHTRODUCE BASE TV SIGNAL INTO REYKJAVIK.)

3. THE IP LEFT FRINGE MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE BY DEMANDING MILITARY REDUCTIONS GREATER THATN 420 AND MIGHT DEMAND POSITIVE PROVISION FOR CTOPERATION WITH ICELANDIC COAST GUARD WHICH ULTIMATELY COULD CAUSE USG INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER "COD WAR."

4. THE IP MODERATE SECTOR WANTS ALTHING DEBATE AS MEANS OF EDUCATING THE GENERAL PUBLIC FAVORABLE REGARDING NEED FOR RETENTION OF IDF. ALSO THIS SECTOR FEELS THAT A PRINCIPLE IS AT STAKE REGARDING ROLE OF ALTHING IN IMPORTANT MATTERS OF THIS KIND AND FEEL THAT ALTHING INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE IN LONG-RUN INTERESTS OF IDF RETENTION. THE MODERATE AND THE RIGHTIST MEMBERS MAKE UP THE MAJORITY WITHIN THE IP.
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5. THE PP LEFT EXTREMISTS MIGHT DEMAND GREATER MILITARY REDUCTIONS THAN 420 AND MIGHT TRY TO SET A TERMINATION DATE ON ORIGINAL 1951 AGREEMENT OR INCLUDE A PROVISION THAT AGREEMENT WILL COME UP FOR AUTOMATIC FORMAL REVIEW AGAIN WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF YEARS. THE PP MODERATE AND RIGHT SECTORS WOULD BE INCLINED TO TAKE SAME STANCE AS THE IP MODERATES.

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6. IF THERE WERE AN ALTHING DEBATE ON THE AGREEMENT MY PROGNOSIS IS THAT THE AGREEMENT AS FORMULATED IN WASHINGTON WOULD PASS WITH A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY, BUT COULD CAUSE WOUNDS WITHIN THE COALITION WHICH WILL TAKE A WHILE TO HEAL. WE SHOULD CONSIDER THIS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTER OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTROL ANYWAY.

7. IN ORDER TO ASSUAGE THE MODERATE ELEMENTS OF THE CT-ALITION PARTNERS, THE GOVT DECIDED TO SEEK FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE WASHINGTON AGREEMENT. IT WAS PRESUMED THAT ALL BUT THE SINGLE PEOPLES ALLIANCE MEMBER WOULD APPROVE AND THAT THE PA MEMBER, GILS GUDMUNDSSON, WOULD MERELY GO ON RECORD AS OBJECTING TO THE AGREEMENT. FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS THEN URGENTLY ASSEMBLED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BUT GILS GUDMUNDSSON WAS ABSENT AND FORMER COMMUNIST MINISTER OF FISHERIES LUDVIK JOSEFSSON SAT AS AN ALTERNATE. HE OBJECTED TO THE AGREEMENT AND TOOKADVANTAGE OF A PARLIAMENTARY RULE WHICH REQUIRES THAT MATTERS COMING BEFORE ALTHING COMMITTEES MUST BE HELD OVER FOR SUBSEQUENT DEBATE IN FOLLOWING WEEK IF ONE MEMBER SO REQUESTS. JOSEFSSON ASKED FOR DELAY UNTIL NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO CONSULT WITH HIS PEOPLES ALLIANCE COLLEAGUES AND WITH FELLOW COMMUNIST MAGNUS KJARTA SSOH WHO IS LEADER OF ANTI-IDF MOVEMENT AND WHO RETURNS TO ICELAND MONDAY AFTER A MONTH'S ABSENCE. HE INDICATED HE WILL SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO FONMIN ON THE WASHINGTON AGREEMENT BY MONDAY WHICH HE DEMANDS BE ANSWERED. NEXT MEETING OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR 9AM OCT 22 LOCAL TIME MEETING OF CABINET TO FORMALLY APPROVE AGREEMENT 11:39 AM SAME DAY AND SIGNING TO TAKE PLACE 2 OR 4 PM SAME DAY.

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8. AT FONMIN'S REQUEST I WILL MEET WITH HIM MONDAY MORNING TO HELP HIM FORMULATE ANSWERS TO JOSEPSSON'S QUESTIONS.

9. I BELIEVE DESPITE FOREGOING EVENTS WASHINGTON AGREE-MENT WILL REMAIN INTACT BUT I CAN GIPE NT ASSURANCE SIG ING TIMETABLE WILL TAKE PLACE AS INDICATED ABOVE OR THAT AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE SUBMITTED TO ALTHING PRIOR TO SIGNATURE.

10. IN REVEIWING THE DOCUMENTS I CAN SEE ONE POTENTIAL TROUBLE POINT, NAMELY PARA 5 OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THE WORDS QUOTE OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD END QUOTE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT GUIDANCE BEFORE WEEKEND IF PRIMEMIN TO-MORROW ASKS WHETHER WE WILLING TO ELIMINATE THAT PHRASE.

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IRVING UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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